

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended, and claims 12-15 have been cancelled. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (Japanese Patent No. 2002-206542 – hereinafter Ito). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Claims 12 and 13 are cancelled.

Amended, independent claim 1 recites: "...wherein an inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway member or an outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway member is of a cylindrical shape, excluding a portion of the inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway or the outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway where the raceway groove is positioned...."

In Ito, the finishing process or thickness control is suitable for a rolling bearing having an outer raceway member 2 that has an inner peripheral surface 2a with a tapered surface, as shown, e.g., in FIGS. 3, 4, and 10.

In contrast, in the subject application, the electrically insulating layer finishing process or thickness control is carried out by utilizing the bare surface area 7 as a tool reference plane, as shown in FIG. 4. And the finishing process or thickness control is suitable for a rolling bearing having an outer or inner raceway member that has an inner or outer peripheral surface of a cylindrical shape.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4, which depends from independent claim 1, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

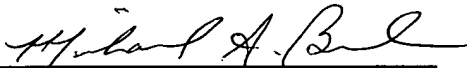
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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